

**THE INTERTEXTUAL STUDY OF THE SYMBOLIC ELEMENTS FROM DA  
VINCE CODE BY DAN BROWN**

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*Abstract:*

This article aims to analyze intertextual study of symbols in Da Vince Code. Decoding the symbols always has a huge intrigue from medieval centuries. The number of symbols from the book are analyzed such as: Holy Grail, pentacle, Fibonacci sequence and the Rose. The allusion of the symbols in the book within intertextual connection with other literature works.

*Key words:* intertextuality, symbols, Holy Grail, pentacle, rose, Fibonacci sequence

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Intertextuality is now a standard feature of postmodern analysis and works alike. It is important to remember that the act of constructing intertextuality predates the theory of intertextuality by a great deal. The main concept of analyzing is intertextuality of symbols in historical fiction novel "Da Vince Code". What is intertextuality in literature?

In literary analysis, intertextuality is a crucial term to comprehend. In essence, it is the process via which writers incorporate quotations, ideas, or references from previous literary works into original writing. The term "intertextuality" is used to describe a broad range of literary links. Intertextuality is essentially the deliberate linking of one's own writing to any other literary work by an author. Some intertextual references are more obliquely mentioned, others are precise lines of speech or action. Various forms of parody, pastiche, retellings, homage, and allegory are included in the term of intertextuality. Intertextual literature is any literary work that contributes to the formation of a new text. There are two categories for intertextuality: referential and typological. Typological intertextuality is the use of pattern and structure in typical texts, whereas referential intertextuality is the use of text fragments. It is also possible to distinguish between presupposition and iterability. Iterability refers to the "repeatability" of a document that contains "traces," or fragments of other texts that contribute to its overall meaning. A text's presumptions about its audience and its setting are referred to as presuppositions. According to William Irwin, the expression "has come to have almost as many meanings as users, from those faithful to Julia Kristeva's original vision to those who simply use it as a stylish way of talking about allusion and influence"[1]

The compositional techniques of intertextuality such pastiche, parody, calque, plagiarism, quotation, and allusion or by links between related or comparable works that the text's reader or audience perceives. [2] Intertextuality can have unintentional or intended effects. These references are occasionally

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produced consciously and rely on the reader's existing knowledge and comprehension of the referent. Frequently linked to techniques utilized by authors producing imaginative works (plays, poetry, fiction, and even non-textual materials like digital media and performance art), It is now possible to view intertextuality as inherent to all texts [3]

One of the brightest examples for intertextuality can be Dan Brown works. A sample of using a wide choice of symbolic elements shows the process of research to intertextuality. The author's book series burn readers intrigues to reveal mystics in the story. The fascinating aspects of the books can be symbols which unknown most readers, they explore religious themes, conspiracy theories, and historical riddles, it caused a lot of debate and controversy as well.

The book tells the tale of French cryptologist Sophie Neveu and Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon as they decipher a string of hints left by a deceased curator at the Louvre Museum in Paris. These hints set them on a mission to decipher the coded secrets concealed in Leonardo da Vinci's paintings and unearth a secret organization.

Brown explores a number of subjects in the book, including the function of the Catholic Church, the background of Christianity, the meaning of symbols, and the idea of the Holy Grail. Readers are kept interested as Langdon and Neveu rush through the narrative by its seamless integration of mystery, art, and history.

The research uses literary analysis, stylistic analysis, statistical analysis, anthropocentric analysis.

"The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown is rich with symbolism, woven intricately into its narrative to add layers of meaning and depth to the story. There are some of the prominent symbols used in the novel which I have analyzed them according to "hyper textuality" which involves relationship between two text, where a second text (referred to as the hypertext", text B) is connected to an earlier text (referred to as the "hypo text" text A) [4]

1.The Holy Grail: Perhaps the most central symbol in the novel, the Holy Grail represents the quest for divine truth and spiritual enlightenment. Beyond its traditional interpretation as the cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper, the Grail embodies hidden knowledge and the sacred feminine. While reader has a huge passion for revealing what is Holy Grail symbol, it outcomes not an item but it was a person or even the symbol of abstract sacred feminine and the secret to be revealed at the end of story. As a researcher I have to go into the historical background of the symbol. The Old French word *san-graal* (or *san-gréal*), which means "Holy Grail," was given a whimsical new etymology in the fifteenth century by the English writer John Hardyng, who translated it as *sang réal*, which means "royal blood." [5]

Later medieval British writers, such Thomas Malory, employed this derivation. It also gained prominence in the conspiracy theory outlined in the book *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*, where *sang real* is used to allude to the lineage of Jesus.

The first recorded mention of a "grail" (Old French: *graal* or *greal*), marvelous but not absolutely holy, is found in *Perceval, the Story of the Grail*, an incomplete chivalric epic penned by Chrétien de Troyes in 1190. In the later 12th and early 13th centuries, Chrétien's tale served as an inspiration for numerous translators, interpreters, and continuations. One such person was Wolfram von Eschenbach, who saw the Grail as a stone. Literary academics and historians

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disagree on whether the Arthurian grail trope has Christian, Celtic, or other possible origins. [6]

The Holy Grail has been connected to numerous conspiracies since the 19th century. Writers Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln developed one of the most well-known conspiracy theories regarding the Holy Grail in the late 20th century. The hypothesis was initially presented in the 1970s BBC documentary series *Chronicle*, and it was further developed in the best-selling 1982 book *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*. [7] The hypothesis incorporates a number of ancient tales, myths about the Templars and Cathars, and a well-known hoax concerning a covert organization known as the Priory of Sion. This hypothesis holds that the Holy Grail is a symbol of Jesus' bloodline rather than a real thing. The etymological interpretation of *sang real* (royal blood), which dates back to the 15th century, provides the foundation for the blood relationship with *san-greal* (holy grail).

Margaret Starbird developed the theory that Saint Sarah, the black servant of Mary Magdalene, was the daughter of Jesus and Mary Magdalene in her 1993 book "The Woman with the Alabaster Jar: Mary Magdalene and the Holy Grail" The book drew on Provençal customs and Cathar beliefs. According to her reconstruction, Mary Magdalene, who was pregnant at the time of the crucifixion, first went to Egypt and subsequently to France. This, in her opinion, is the origin of the mythology connected to the *Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer* religion. She said that Sarah is the forgotten child of the "sang réal," the blood royal of the Jewish King, since her name means "Princess" in Hebrew. [8] In Starbird's opinion, Mary Magdalene was the same as Mary of Bethany, Lazarus's sister. However, M. Starbird also thought that Mary Magdalene and Mary of Bethany, Lazarus's sister, were the same person. Despite using the same purported relationship between Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and Saint Sarah that would play a major part in many of the published bloodline scenarios, M. Starbird acknowledged the existence of Sarah's ancestry but deemed it unimportant to her thesis. [9] Her interpretation of Mary Magdalene/Mary of Bethany as Jesus' spouse is also connected to feminist theology's idea of the sacred feminine.

2. The Pentacle: The pentacle, a five-pointed star enclosed within a circle, symbolizes various aspects throughout the novel, including protection, spirituality, and the union of opposites (such as masculine and feminine energies).

The pentacle or pentagon has the same meaning "five-pointed star in a circle" originated from French. It is a symbol that has been used in various cultures and traditions throughout history, with different meanings attributed to it. There are numerous pentacle variants: here are some key points about the symbol of the pentacle in the grimoire known as the *Key of Solomon*. Along with other magical implements, pentacles are employed in the neopagan magical religion known as Wicca. Pentacles represent the element earth in the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn and Wicca. Pentacles prominently use a pentagram in their design in the 1909 Rider-Waite-Smith tarot deck (the pentacles of which were designed by Arthur Edward Waite), as well as in later tarot decks that are based on it and in Wicca. This type of pentacle is shaped like a disk and can be placed on an altar or utilized as a standalone sacred area. [10]

The Earth Pentacle is one of an Adept's four elemental "weapons" or tools in the Golden Dawn magical system. These instruments are "symbolical representations of the forces employed for the manifestation of the inner self, the

elements required for the incarnation of the divine." Therefore, the author wanted to indicate by using the pentacle symbol to the equality of men and women. Even though it was understood indifferent among cultures, the pentacle depicts to the feminine and with similarity as goddess Venus.

3. The Rose: The rose is a sign of love, strength, royalty, beauty, sensuality, and mysticism, if there is one. The flower, also referred to as "the queen of flowers," originated at least thirty-three to twenty-three million years ago during the oligocene period. Its origins are undoubtedly in what is now Southwest China, much like the azalea and camellia, but it has been present in many cultures since 3000 BCE. The importance of roses in Western art from the first millennium BCE to the twenty-first century CE will be the main topic of this slide show.

The symbol of rose is mentioned in Da Vinci Code to indicate in order to decode the person in the story. For example: the scenario with crypttext and opening process of it, furthermore, in Sophies childhood with her grandfather. Roses symbolize the loyalty of person and beauty of feminine. As far going into further details, it is an indicator to Sophie- Jack Sonier's granddaughter, who is a member of Holy family. In comparison, various cultures have their own concept for the rose symbol.

Although the number of petals on a rose might vary based on the particular type, roses typically have five petals. The five petals of a rose may have varied symbolic meanings for different cultures and traditions, but one widely accepted interpretation is that they represent the five wounds on the cross that represent Christ in Christian imagery.

The five petals of a rose are also thought to symbolize the five elements of nature—earth, air, fire, water, and spirit—in certain cultures. The five petals may refer to the five fingers of the hand or the five senses in different situations. It is crucial to remember that the meaning of roses can differ greatly based on cultural context, personal interpretation, and background. The concept of pentacle symbol is the same as rose. Because five points indicate elements of nature as well. These elements are essential to live therefore, they depict to the equality not only for living environment but also men and feminine equality, which author wants to give a hint at this via these symbols.

4. The Fibonacci Sequence: The Fibonacci sequence, a mathematical pattern found in nature and art, is referenced in the novel as a symbol of harmony, balance, and the interconnectedness of all things. The Fibonacci numbers represent a series of whole numbers that begin at 0 and go up to 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, ... with each new number equal to the sum of the two before it. A common subject in culture is the Fibonacci numbers, which are frequently portrayed in connection with the golden ratio. They have been referenced in songs, TV series, movies, and novels. The numbers have also been utilized in the development of visual arts, music, and architectural design. Some samples of using Fibonacci sequence:

a) The codes unlock a safe in the 2006 film The Da Vinci Code. They are also arranged in an anagram to show that the message is likewise out of order.

b) In the 2007 film Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium, Jason Bateman plays accountant Henry Weston, who is hired by Magorium following an interview in which he proves his familiarity with Fibonacci numbers.

c) Near is seen organizing sugar cubes in a Fibonacci sequence in the 2008 film L: Change the World.

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d) The number of lines in each poem in the Danish poet Inger Christensen's poetry collection *Alphabet* is determined by the Fibonacci sequence.

e) The Fibonacci sequence is explored in Emily Gravett's 2009 book *The Rabbit Problem*.

f) In the 2012 Douglas Preston/Lincoln Child novel *Two Graves*, a serial killer uses the Fibonacci sequence to entice Special Agent Pendergast, the protagonist.

#### Conclusion

The utilizing of symbols in literature has a great impact to the meaning and sequence of the narration. An author can inspire of another author's works by different elements of intertextuality while this works might be unique as well. Dan Brown has aspiration of various religious books and some artifacts which is trusted by local people in Spain and France. Therefore, he collected symbols representing to the equality of men and women in his book. Pentacle, rose and Fibonacci sequence are served to explore the mist Holy Grail. These symbols, among others, serve to enrich the narrative of "The Da Vinci Code" by adding depth, intrigue, and thematic resonance to the story. They invite readers to contemplate the deeper meanings embedded within the plot and characters, sparking curiosity and exploration of timeless themes such as spirituality, knowledge, and the mysteries of existence.

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